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AFRL Rome awards \$1.5 million contract to GE

by Fran Crumb, Information Directorate

ROME, N.Y. — The Air Force Research Laboratory's Information Directorate has awarded a \$1,518,818 contract to General Electric Corp. of Niskayuna.

The one-year agreement, Fuselet Development Environment: Creation, Testing and Use, will develop technology in support of the directorate's Joint Battlespace Infosphere program.

"The AFRL Joint Battlespace Infosphere research and development program is exploring concepts and implementations of an advanced information management system that provides a globally interoperable 'information space' and intelligent battlespace information dissemination services to support effective decision-making," said James R. Milligan, program manager in the directorate's Information Technology Division.

"As part of this larger initiative, General Electric has been awarded a contract to develop a Fuselet Development Environment," said Milligan.

"Fuselets are light-weight, distributed, special-purpose software programs implemented specifically within the JBI to pro-

vide value-added processing functions for the transformation, aggregation, mediation, and integration of heterogeneous data to produce actionable information."

GE's fuselet development environment will provide an easy-to-use, graphical, uniform human computer interface to fuselet production capabilities that support users with varying levels of fuselet authoring skills — ranging from a typical, non-technical personnel to users possessing higher levels of programming proficiencies. This will allow subject matter experts, such as crisis response officials, to quickly craft useful information production tools to assist them with their immediate tasks without requiring any significant programming skills.

JB I is envisioned as a global computer "system of systems" that, once built, will facilitate real-time management of combat information. JB I will allow military leaders to access the most current and accurate information needed to make quick decisions during a crisis or conflict. @